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CHANGE OF COLOR IN FLOWERS PLACED UNDER GLASSES OF DIFFERENT COLORS.—M. De Candolle suggested the construction of experimental green-houses and hot-houses, and gave his views as to the plan to be adopted in their erection, so as best to serve the purpose of the physiologist. "A building, such as I propose, would allow of light being passed through colored glasses or colored solutions, and so prove the effect of the different visible and invisible rays which enter into the composition of sunlight. M. Von Martin placed some plants of *Amaranthus tricolor* for two months under glasses of various colors. Under the yellow glass the varied tint of the leaves was preserved. The red glass impeded the development of the leaves, and produced, at the base of the limb, yellow instead of green; in the middle of the upper surface, yellow instead of reddish brown; and below, a red spot instead of purplish red. With the blue glasses, which allowed some green and yellow to pass, that which was red or yellow in the leaf had spread so that there remained only a green border or edge. Under the nearly pure violet glasses, the foliage became almost uniformly green. Now that plants with colored foliage are becoming fashionable, it may interest horticulturists to know that by means of colored glasses, provided they are not yellow, they may hope to obtain, at least, temporary effects as to the coloring of variegated foliage. Nothing would be easier than to create in the experimental hot-house an atmosphere of carbonic acid gas, such as is supposed to have existed in the coal period. Then it might be seen to what extent our present vegetation would take an excess of carbon from the air, and if its general existence were inconvenienced by it. Then might be ascertained what tribes of plants could bear this condition, and what other families could not have existed, supposing the air had formerly had a very large proportion of carbonic acid gas."—*Quarterly Journal of Science, London*.

ZOOLOGY.

THE STUFFED WHALE IN THE SWEDISH MUSEUM.—Professor Lilljeborg describes, in a letter to Dr. J. E. Gray, how this species of whale (*Balaenoptera*) was stuffed, which we translate as follows. The skin of the same was divided into several portions, and then stretched over a model made of wood of the exact form and size of the animal itself. The epidermis is preserved on the skin, and it is still but slightly torn. The layer of blubber is without doubt very thin, otherwise the skin (*epidermis*) would have been filled with rents and wrinkles, which, however, are not to be seen.—*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*.

THE EGGS OF THE DRAGON-FLY.—Since printing the article on the Dragon-fly in our last number we have had an opportunity of seeing the eggs collected by a friend at Haverhill, July 3d, at the first field-meeting of the Essex Institute. The eggs are laid in immense numbers in long ropy, gelatinous masses, nearly one-half an inch thick, attached to an aquatic grass. When folded together, the entire mass was nearly the size of a hen's egg.

The new-born larvæ looked like small spiders swimming in the water, as the abdomen is very short, and the legs remarkably long, the hindmost pair being one-half longer than the body. The body is very transparent, and through the thin wall can be seen the blood coursing rapidly through the dorsal vessel or heart, and returning along the side of the body, as also the smaller currents thrown into and returning from the legs. The little creatures are very active, swimming by hundreds through the water, or crawling over the mass of eggs.

We shall speak at another time of the changes the embryo undergoes before hatching. The eggs are only two and one-half hundredths of an inch long. It is probable that they are the young of *Diplax*, as they bear a close resemblance to the pupa (fig. 4) figured in our last number.

RAPID CHANGE OF COLOR IN FISH.—I caught the other day in fishing for shells, a small "horned-pout," about two inches long, intensely black in color. I put him in a white bowl to examine him. In half an hour he had turned white, so clear and pretty in color, that you could see the circulation under the skin of the body. Only his "feelers" and eyes remained black, and he is now, three days after capture, lively, healthy, and well bleached. Do these fish usually change their color in this way?—E. C. BOLLES, *Portland, Me.*

NATURAL HISTORY CALENDAR.

INSECTS IN SEPTEMBER.—Few new insects make their first appearance for the season during this month. Most of the species which abound in the early part of the month are the August forms, which live until they are killed by the frosts late in the month. From this cause there is towards the end of the month a very sensible diminution of the number of insects.

The early frosts warn these delicate creatures of approaching cold. Hence the whole insect population is busied late in the month in looking out snug winter quarters, or providing for the continuance of the